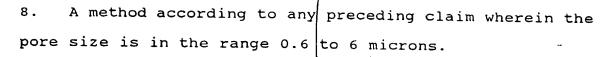
CLAIMS

- 1. A method for the removal of abnormal infective prion proteins associated with transmissible spongiform encephalopies (TSEs) from an aqueous liquid containing a natural product, which comprises passing the liquid through a depth filter formed of a matrix comprising solid particles of porous material and having a pore size providing a retention less than $6\mu m$.
- 2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the matrix comprises a binder.
- 3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the binder is cellulose.
- 4. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the solid porous particles are kieselguhr or perlite particles or mixtures thereof.
- 5. A method according to any of claims 1 to 3 wherein the solid porous particles are diatomaceous earth particles.
- 6. A method according to any preceding claim carried out in the absence of cationic or anionic charged material.
- 7. A method according to any preceding claim carried out at a pH in the range 4 to 10.





- 9. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the pore size is in the range 0.6 to 1.5 microns.
- 10. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the depth filter has a thickness of 2 to 5 mm.
- 11. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the natural product is a protein.
- 12. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the aqueous liquid comprises a blood plasma product.
- 13. A method according to claim 12 wherein the blood plasma product is albumin, an immunoglobulin, Factor IX, thrombin, fibronectin, fibrinogen, Factor VIII, Factor II, Factor VII, Factor IX, or Factor X.
- 14. A liquid subjected to prion removal according to the method of any preceding claim.

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THE REAL STREET